

*Washington*

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

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AIR

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RYBAT/PBSUCCESS/SECRET

Chief, Lincoln

Chief of Station, Guatemala INFO: Washington

KUGOWN

Comments on HUL-A-401 and HUL-A-413

1. The information contained in HUL-A-401 relating to the character assassination of Rogelio CRUZ Wer was passed on to Essence for possible dissemination. He noted, however, that in his opinion such information has very limited value in view of the fact that personal aggrandizement by public officials in Latin America (whatever their political orientation) is accepted as a matter of fact and with a literal shrug of the shoulders. If they fail to enrich themselves while in office, that is news.
2. Essence has agreed again to seek greater cooperation from merchants in the central part of the capital city who have in the past been unwilling to accept the risk involved in displaying anti-communist posters (para. 4, HUL-A-413), but he notes a qualifying factor with regard to your suggestion that it might be appropriate to treat the windows of merchants displaying communist posters in the same manner that communists threaten to treat windows with anti-communist posters.

Briefly, the communist goon-squads engaged in such activities have the protection of the government; the anti-communists do not. Therefore, at this time we do not favor diverting limited personnel assets from other priority activities in order to exploit this relatively unimportant matter unless the estimated impact clearly indicates that the effort will justify the risk and time involved.

George L. Tranger

14 April 1954

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